

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2006. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2-8 and 10-19 are under consideration in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-8, 10-16 and 19 are being amended, as set forth in the above marked-up presentation of the claim amendments, in order to correct formal errors and/or to more particularly define and distinctly claim applicant's invention.

All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification. Applicants hereby submit that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Formality Rejection

Claims 1-8 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 19 was further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. As indicated, the claims are either amended as required by the Examiner, or cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding informality rejections is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 5-6, 9 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 6,775,518 to Norcott et al. (hereinafter "Norcott"), and claim 19 was rejected by US Pat. No. 6,411,796 to Remschel (hereinafter "Remschel"). Claims 2-4 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norcott in view of US Publication No. 2005/0216443 of Morton et al. (hereinafter "Morton") and claims 7-8 and 15-18 were rejected over Norcott in view of Remschel. These rejections have been carefully considered, but are most respectfully traversed.

Since claims 1 and 9 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, the relevant rejections thus become moot.

The invention as now recited in claims 2 & 10 not only (1) extracts text information and drawing information from the video information included in the class information, and extracting text information from the audio information included in the class information; but also (2) correlates the video information with the lecture-related information by comparing the text information and/or the drawing information with the lecture-related information.

As admitted by the Examiner (p. 9, lines 4-7 of the outstanding Office Action), Norcott is silent regarding the (1) extracting feature. Morton was relied upon by the Examiner to compensate for Norcott's deficiencies. However, Morton (paragraphs [0058]-[0059]; Fig. 1), at most, teaches the (1) extracting feature, but not the (2) correlating feature. Morton merely implies that the information may be correlated by *time* (paragraphs [0058]-[0059]; "a time-based index file" p. 9, lines 9-10 of the outstanding Office Action), but not correlating by *text* as the present invention.

The invention now recited in claim 19 (pp. 30-33; Fig. 15) is directed to a software program embedded in a computer readable medium, comprising: a module of displaying in individual groups of students sorted into the groups sharing identical wrong replies to lecture contents sent from student terminals ("*extract students who gave the same wrong answers...to the review problems*" p. 30, lines 6-8; S6002 in Fig. 15); a module of displaying information to be specified by one of the students, and the learning progress status of said one student and a respective student terminal display screen; and a module of facilitating communication between an instructor terminal connected over a network to an information management server for selectively distributing supplemental lecture contents from the instructor terminal to the students per group ("*set as tutoring student group*" p. 31, lines 23-24; "*The grouping in the embodiment of the present invention was utilized for tutoring purposes.*" P. 32, lines 3-4; "*monitoring the state of the group of students undergoing tutoring*" p. 32, lines 15-16; "*The student learns from the supplemental learning contents sent to the student PC 103.*" P. 32, lines 24-25; "*When the tutoring start time determined by each student group is reached, the tutor begins tutoring the student group.*" p. 33, lines 8-10; S6007 in Fig. 15).

By dividing the students into groups according to their replies to exercise (or drill) problems, the instructor can address/tutor the students in groups. The invention spares the

instructor from the trouble of setting up communications with each student in order to schedule tutoring for the same problems.

In contrast, Remschel only (1) randomly assigns students in a roster file to various groups or (2) sets a particular formed group as a model to all other students not in the group (Abstract; “*to form at least one student group made up of randomly selected ones of said plurality of students*” claim 1), rather than “sorting students into the groups sharing identical wrong replies to lecture contents” as in the present invention.

In addition, Remschel only “*allows for the compilation and manipulation of data for each student in a roster file. Thus, various data, including for example test scores, attendance records and assignment completion records, may be maintained on each student* (col. 4, line 22-26),” rather than “sorting students into the groups sharing identical wrong replies to lecture contents” as in the present invention.

Further more, Remschel only “*views this information, or to assign certain projects or the like to particular students based upon the status of various data of the roster file* (col. 4, lines 26-29)”, but not to “*selectively distribute supplemental lecture contents* from the instructor terminal to the students per group” as in the present invention.

Applicants contend that neither Norcott, Morton, Remschel, nor their combinations teach or suggest each and every feature of the present invention as recited in independent claims 2, 10, and 19. As such, the present invention as now claimed is distinguishable and thereby allowable over the rejections raised in the Office Action. The withdrawal of the outstanding prior art rejections is in order, and is thus respectfully solicited.

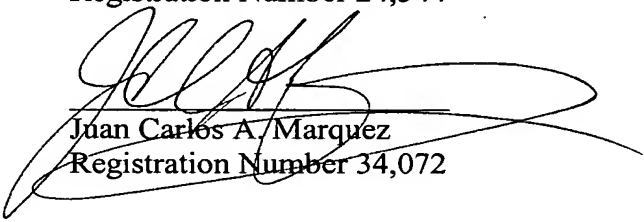
Conclusion

In view of all the above, clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art reference upon which the rejections in the Office Action rely, Applicants respectfully contend that the prior art references cannot anticipate the present invention or render the present invention obvious. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the address and telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher
Registration Number 24,344



Juan Carlos A. Marquez
Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP
3110 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 1400
Falls Church, Virginia 22042
(703) 641-4200

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